



KANEOHE NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 30

C/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 925 DILLINGHAM BOULEVARD SUITE 160• HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96817
PHONE: (808) 768-3710 • FAX: (808) 768-3711 • INTERNET: www.honolulu.gov/nco

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2017

BENJAMIN PARKER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA

CALL TO ORDER – Chair Radke called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. **Quorum was established with 11 members present.** Note: This 17-member Board requires nine (9) members to establish quorum and to take official Board action.

Board Members Present – Gloria Carlile, Deborah Collins, Mahealani Cypher, Donald Dawson, Warren B. Ditch Jr., Jon Hanks, Mo Radke, Bill Sager, Jeremiah Sanders, Felipe San Nicolas, and Holly Sevier.

Board Members Absent – Kenneth Cho, Nancy Devlantes, Marie Gavigan, and Stuart Saito.

Guests – Firefighter III Nelson Faulkner (Honolulu Fire Department); Lieutenant John Asing (Honolulu Police Department); Director Lori Kahikina (Department of Environmental Services, Mayor Caldwell's Representative); Roderick Becker (Governor David Ige's representative); William May (Hawaii State Hospital); Cherie Andrade (Blue Zones); Vince Carias, Wal Rapoza, Barbara Shimei, Harry and Lorraine Abilla, Vernon Ansdell, Bruce Dusseault, Chris Wong (Kalihi Valley Neighborhood Board No. 16 Chair), Tom Lawrence, John Wong, Ray Cabrera, Ben Baniaga, Melvin and Sherry Tsutsumi, Thomas Whitaker, Vince Poyo, Lataunya Poyo, Mathew Kievlan, Jesse Palmer, Gary Reavis, Barry Castillo Jr., Darlene Lilinoe Young, Jay Morford, Monique Ornellas, Ilima Liu, Dennisa Manuel, Tiffany Woo, Ron Komine Jr., Robert Perriera, Angela Texeira, Jennifer Wisdom, Jay Silberman, Dudley Dias, Lyra Hancock, Au Kealii Chock, Barbara G. Ripple, Richard Miller, Bob Cheung, Joe and Kitty O'Reilly, Regina Yoshimori, Sheri Hanor, Caitlin and Carissa Yoshimori, Lucian Keane, Patricia Camero, Janine Tully, Jaimie Chu, Rich McCreedy, Chuck Burrows, Cristina Cruz, Florence Kim, Mindy Kadowaki, Kylee Pakele-Kadowaki, Carolyn Kawahara, Henry Adachi, Melva Kulubu, Ed Lesperance, Dancetta Feary, Ken Rose, Michael Nishizawa, Casey Red, Konni Pratt, Kami Pratt, Rocky Kaluhiwa, Malin and Sam Linn, Cara Haitsuka, Belinda DeRego, BJ Abbey, Douglas Motonaga, Elsie Hataye, Susan and Jimmy Wong, Cathy Veillard, Kevin and Lyronine Lori, Lynette Santos, Pat Boland, Elsa Dasigo, Maile Linn, David and Melie Au, Corina Iwanaga, Sherri Farthing, Ryan Routh, Ted Kanemori, Tina Freitas, Edgar Pratt, Wendy Ginoza, Mara Chang, Erik Kling, Stacy Haitsuka, Robert Walls, Masa Swingaki, Glenn Masavedi, Glenn Uyeshiro, Bill Cunningham, Linda Chang, Lianne Chang, Mitchell Chang, Grant Yoshimori, Julianne McCreedy, John and Cheryl Goody, Valerie Wong, Ernest Suh, Keith Kunchaski, and Alii Tampus (Residents); and Relley Araceley (Neighborhood Commission Office).

FILLING OF VACANCIES – Chair Radke noted one (1) vacancy for sub-district 2 (Windward Mall) and one (1) vacancy for sub-district 6 (Waikalua).

CITY/STATE MONTHLY REPORTS

Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) – Acting Captain Nelson Faulkner reported the following:

- **April 2017 Fire Statistics:** There was 1 structure fire, 2 wild land brush fires, 3 cooking fires, 7 activated alarms, 105 medical responses, 1 motor vehicle collision with a pedestrian, 12 motor vehicle crash/collisions, 1 ocean rescue, and 1 hazardous materials incident.
- **Fire Safety Tip Brush Fires/Wild lands:** The National Fire Protection Association suggests that residents with surrounding brush take the following steps to prevent fires near your home:
 - Keep your lawn hydrated and maintained. If your lawn is brown, cut it down to decrease possible fire intensity.
 - Dry grass and shrubs are fuel for fires. Clear leaves from roof, gutters, porches, or decks as this helps keep fires from entering the home.
 - Have a plan in place if you must evacuate

Questions, comments, and concerns followed: **Rescues:** A resident asked and Captain Faulkner responded that there were no rescues in April 2017 at Haiku stairs.

Honolulu Police Department (HPD) – There was no representative present; no report was available.

Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH) – There was no representative present; no report was available.

Hawaii State Hospital (HSH) – Administrator William May noted that the Goddard site project is hoping to break ground on construction in about a year and complete work by 2020.

RESIDENT/COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Abandoned Vehicles: Resident Ben Baniaga noted that there are cited abandoned/stolen vehicles that need to be taken off Mahalani Street as they have been there for about five (5) months. Baniaga also noted a stripped-down truck that needs to be taken off Waialele Road.

Haiku Stairs: Several residents voiced their displeasure with the rampant trespassing occurring in the neighborhood around Haiku Stairs and urged supporting the removal of the stairs. The residents cited littering, general trash, and parking issues as well.

ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPORTS

Governor David Ige's Representative – Roderick Becker circulated the Capitol Connections newsletter, highlighted homelessness in the newsletter, and noted that the 2017 legislative session had concluded and all bills that passed are awaiting the Governor's signature.

Mayor Kirk Caldwell's Representative – City and County of Honolulu Director of the Department of Environmental Service (ENV) Lori Kahikina circulated the Oahu News and reported the following:

1. Sew a Lei for Memorial Day: Residents interested in donating leis are encouraged to do so at various parks or at the HFD stations.
2. Moped Registration: A handout relating to moped registration was provided for the community.
3. Board Elections: Voting for the neighborhood board elections will conclude on Friday, May 19, 2017.
4. Homelessness: 1506 Piikoi Street recently opened up for families with children under 18 years of age and one (1) working resident making 50% of the area median income (AMI) or below.
5. Rail: No special session seems to be occurring due to the inability for the House and Senate to come to an agreement. The Mayor's administration supports the Senate's version which would extend the general excise tax (GET) for 10 years. The House's version would include the transient accommodations tax (TAT) into the equation and is not supported by the Mayor.
6. Crosswalk Signal: The Department of Transportation Services (DTS) rechecked the pedestrian button and found the replacement pedestrian button has also failed. DTS replaced the defective button.
7. Pahia Road: The Pahia Road intersection is currently under design, and construction funds will be allocated in fiscal year 2018.
8. Feral Chicken: The Customer Services Department (CSD) reported that in 2015 and 2016, the City did have a feral chicken pilot program, capturing chickens on City owned properties only, such as golf courses, parks, and base yards. Currently, the City does not have a feral chicken eradication contract. We recommend that residents contact a private exterminating or pest control company to address this concern. Cost of such services will be at the property owner's expense.
9. Parking Structure: Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 291-71(a) requires "places of public accommodation with at least one-hundred parking spaces available for use by the general public shall have at least one parking stall exclusively for electric vehicles and equipped with an electric vehicle charging system located anywhere in the parking structure or lot." The law does not name an enforcement entity. The law does not provide language or specificity on enforcement. The Hawaii State Energy Office of DBEDT has more information on EV laws: <http://energy.hawaii.gov/testbeds-initiatives/ev-ready-program/laws-incentives>.
10. Stream Maintenance: City Department of Facility Maintenance (DFM) crews cleaned the ditch portion immediately upstream, under and immediately downstream of Kamau Place Bridge that is the City portion. The remainder of the stream in that area is the responsibility of the property owner that appears to be the State.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed:

1. Towing: Ditch asked and Director Kahikina answered that the towing of abandoned vehicles is contracted out and that the lot that the vehicles are towed to is currently full. Many of the vehicles were owned by military personnel. Director Kahikina noted that a meeting was recently held to discuss the possibility of storing the abandoned vehicles at City buildings that might have the space. Due to certain laws the City is not able to instantly auction or recycle the vehicles. Ditch requested a follow up when available. Chair Radke asked and Director Kahikina responded that

there is a contracted site to demolish the cars that ships the steel off-island. Chair Radke asked and Director Kahikina responded that some of the military-owned vehicles are abandoned on City streets.

2. Rail: Resident Ted Kanemori voiced his concerns with rail.

Councilmember Ikaika Anderson – Francisco Figueiredo reported that the City Council has completed its deliberation on the budget. A resolution was introduced requesting the Mayor's administration look into creating a dog park in the Kaneohe/Kailua area. Two (2) sites are being requested to be looked into. \$100,000 has been allocated for the project.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed:

1. Bus: A resident asked and Figueiredo responded that the bus fare has been raised by 25 cents.
2. Wong Residence: Fred Collins asked for a follow-up with the Wong residence issue.

Senator Jill Tokuda's Office – No representative was present; no report was available.

Representative Ken Ito's Office – Representative Ito reported the following:

- Community Hour: A community hour with the community is being planned in conjunction with Senator Tokuda.
- Rail: The rail tax issues is currently in limbo.
- Leadership: The leadership of the State House has reorganized. Representative Ito still holds seniority in the House.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed: Community Hour: A resident asked and Representative Ito responded that there is no set date for the Community Hour but that the community would be informed once it is scheduled.

Representative Jarrett Keohokalole – No representative was present; no report was available.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Blue Zones: Jennifer Wisdom circulated a project calendar and reported the following:

- Community Garden Day: Blue Zones will be volunteering at Windward Community College (WCC) for their Community Garden Day on Saturday, May 20, 2017 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- Purpose Workshop: A "Purpose Workshop" will be held on Saturday, June 10, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Unity Windward and is geared towards giving community members a purpose in their lives.
- Information: Residents looking for more info can visit the BlueZonesProjectKoolaupoko Facebook page or www.hawaii.bluezonesproject.com/events.

BOARD BUSINESS

Serenity Gardens – Keith Kurahashi with RM Towill gave a short visual presentation and reported the following regarding the creation of a new "Serenity Gardens Cemetery":

- Parcel: The sites being looked at are located at the end of Puohala Street. The project is a permitted use project in P2 zoning in a general preservation district but will need City Council approval. The site area is vacant and designated urban.
- Zoning: There will be no change in zoning requested and the proposed cemetery are permitted uses in the zoning district. The City Council is being requested to merely establish the appropriate boundary for the cemetery.
- Timing: The project is scheduled to take about 16 years to complete and would be done in four (4) phases.
- Mortuary: To minimize traffic impacts, no mortuary is planned for Serenity Gardens. No crematorium is either.
- Access: Access to the cemetery will be through the cul-de-sac at the north end of Puohala Street which will be improved with a turnaround area. Serenity Gardens would offer a third option in the Kaneohe/Kahaluu area.
- Floodplain: The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) shows that the project site is located within Zone X which is outside of the 500-year floodplain. The portion of the property adjacent to the Tsunami Evacuation Zone area is not planned for development.
- Setback: There will be a 50 foot setback from the property boundaries.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed:

1. Outreach: Chair Radke asked and it was responded that the first mailing was sent out a couple weeks ago but no physical contact was made yet.
2. Opposition: Chair Radke noted receiving 66 testimonies in opposition from members in the community regarding traffic, neighborhood peacefulness, and concerns about the park. Sager noted 12 opposition phone calls.

3. Community: Various community members noted opposition to the project and voiced displeasure with the lack of communication with community members. The community members noted that traffic would become much worse. Collins thanked the community for being present at the meeting.

Hanks moved and Collins seconded that the Kaneohe Neighborhood Board No. 30 request the City Council oppose building Serenity Gardens at its currently proposed lot. The motion was APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY, 11-0-0 (Aye: Carlile, Collins, Cypher, Dawson, Ditch Jr., Hanks, Radke, Sager, Sanders, San Nicolas, and Sevier; Nay: None; Abstain: None ;).

Hawaiian Memorial Park (HMP) Mortuary – Scott Ezer and Kehau Watson gave a visual presentation and reported the following:

- History: HMP first opened in 1958. In the 1980's gifted 33 acres to the State of Hawaii to help with the overflow at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl. 93% of the current property has been sold.
- Former Plans: The previous 2007 and 2010 plans were abandoned.
- New Plan: The new plan will expand the cultural reserve area and will be managed by a Native Hawaiian 501C-3 organization. The buffer from the adjoining neighbors will increase to 150 feet. Half of the proposed site will be committee to the cultural site or open space. HMP is committed to designing storm drainage to address 100-year storm flooding. Ezer provided image renderings of the proposed visual mitigation efforts.
- Council: HMP has requested an amendment to the Sustainable Communities Plan that would move the community growth boundary about 50 acres for the new project site. The language states that the boundary change would include the cemetery development only.
- Preservations/Conservation: Watson noted her specialty in mitigation and historic preservation. The 50 acre natural preserve will be managed by a Native Hawaiian 501C-3 and would protect a thousand year old heiau. All historical sites in the area will be preserved. Hula Halau are being worked with to utilize the local fauna. A draft preservation plan is in place and a management plan is being drafted. The Lekoa Street entrance will be closed. All 150 acres will be put into a conservation easement in perpetuity that will be held by a separate land trust. 120 acres are going to remain as open air space.
- Summary: Ezer noted that the housing and mausoleum has been removed from the previous plans. The buffer from Pohai Nani has been increased to 2,000 feet and 150 feet from adjacent residents. 28 acres are being proposed for development of the cemetery. Storm water runoff mitigation is planned.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed:

1. Flooding: A resident voiced opposition to the project due to flooding affect it would have with the adjacent community. The resident noted that the area legislators have voiced opposition to the extension. Another resident urged the cemetery be kept out of the community as flooding could destroy Kaneohe Bay.
2. Opposition: Resident Grant Yoshimori noted that the land is within the State Conservation District. In 2009 the State Land Use Commission (LUC) denied HMP's request to rezone the land and noted that there is adequate space available in the area for interment. Grading would worsen landslide possibilities. Yoshimori voiced support for preserving the area without the need of developing the cemetery. The LUC noted that the Hoary Bat could use the petition area of the land. Yoshimori requested the board oppose the project.
3. Hiking/Jogging: A resident asked about hiking and jogging access to the area behind the proposed project site.
4. Support: Rocky Kaluhiwa voiced support for the expansion of HMP and read a letter of support from the Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club for President Alice P. Hewett. Chris Wong, Chair of the Kalihi Valley Neighborhood Board No. 16 voiced support for HMP. Cypher voiced support for HMP.
5. Need: Sanders noted that a survey taken in 2013 showed 70% of residents chose cremation. Sanders asked and Ezer answered that the 28 acres would last for 60 years and that the need for number of interments has not changed. Ezer noted that the funeral home and the endowment will become the main revenue generators in the future.
6. Progress: San Nicolas asked and Ezer answered that the plan is in the early stages of design. Ezer noted that the general ideas will not be changed but that the specifics need to be detailed. The next step is to go to the LUC. San Nicolas asked and Ezer answered that the plan is still a draft. Watson clarified that the idea was to get to the community as early as possible.
7. Flooding (continued): Chair Radke asked and Ezer replied that when the plan goes to the LUC it will have a fully developed engineering report that will address flooding. Chair Radke thanked HMP for their efforts to address the community's concerns.
8. Progress (continued): Professor Dick Miller noted that a decision should not be made until more details are provided. Chair Radke asked and Ezer responded that the information will be posted online when they are solidified.
9. Opposition/Support: Several residents reiterated their opposition and support for HMP's expansion.

10. Progress (continued): Ditch urged HMP to address all the concerns that were brought up. Sevier requested a topographical map and an engineer at a future meeting to address the community's concerns with flooding.

Haiku Stairs – Ditch recommended the issue be tabled to the next meeting due to time constraints. Sager noted that the BWS deadline for comments on the environmental impact statement (EIS) is on Tuesday, May 23, 2017 and requested the community be given a chance to voice their opinions. Chair Radke noted that the number of residents present and desiring to have their comments heard constituted an issue of great community importance and if any board members had to leave they could. Any board members wishing to stay to hear the testimony were welcome to stay. All board members stayed. Chair Radke noted that the resolution could be introduced but that no board action would be taken. Chair Radke read the resolution provided by Sager regarding reopening the Haiku Stairs to the general public under a controlled and managed access plan. Chair Radke noted that the EIS is set to consider the removal of the stairs, providing a legal access alternative, or to do nothing. Cypher noted that BWS may be willing to take late testimony from the board. Cypher encouraged the community to email the board members so that they have a physical copy of the community's concerns.

Questions, comments, and concerns followed:

1. Opening: Sager noted support for opening access to Haiku Stairs under a managed access plan and support for the Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club's management plans for the area.
2. Trespassers: Ditch noted the need to address issues with trespassing and stated that the visitors need to be educated. Chair Radke noted that the managed access area might take away the issues with folks trespassing on private home property. Dr. Vernon Ansdell, President of Friends of Haiku Stairs, noted that a managed access plan has been worked on for the past couple years and that a robust security plan would greatly benefit the area. Chair Radke asked and L. Young noted that the hikers are trespassing on private property to get around the security.
3. Jurisdiction: Resident Ken Rose noted that the area is landlocked due to agency ownership of the land surrounding the area by Kamehameha Schools, the Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL), the Department of Transportation (HDOT), and Windward Community College (WCC). Each of the agencies has stated that they will not allow public access on their land and that no single agency has come forward to take over the stairs. HPD is unable to cite trespassers unless the complainant is the landowner and is present at the citing. Rose noted that it will be extremely difficult for the organization chosen to undertake the managed access to address all the issues related to Haiku Stairs while also managing Haiku Stairs. Chair Radke noted the possibility of creating an access point that had parking away from Haiku neighborhood, which would allow the managing organization to control the number of hikers on the trail.
4. Citation: Chair Radke asked and Rose responded that landowner must be at the site to file a citation. Rose noted that there a multitude of entry points for the trail. Chair Radke asked if it would be possible to garner enough community support to block the various entry points.
5. Opposition: A resident requested a HPD officer in the area at all times to cite trespassers. Multiple residents voiced opposition to reopening Haiku Stairs and urged that it be removed due to noise complaints as well as the trespassing issues. Representative Ito reported that through multiple discussions with the various landowners he found that no one is willing to allow access to their land.
6. Support: Multiple residents voiced support for a managed access plan. Various residents stated that Haiku Stairs is a world-class attraction. A resident suggested a separate parking area, toilets, and posted opening times. Sager noted that individuals were allowed access to Haiku Stairs without issue in the past.
7. Coast Guard: A resident asked and another resident noted that trespassing was not really an issue in the past when the Coast Guard was managing access to the trail.
8. Jurisdiction (continued): A resident asked how the issue with the property owners (Agency's) would be addressed by the plan. Chair Radke noted that agency landowners draw no benefit from exposing themselves to liability, if the plan could garner community support including the affected private land owners, then it could be more practical to approach the agency landowners with a different community mindset and they may be more amenable to transferring right of way to a private entity operating the stairs. A resident voiced strong concerns with a large number of visitors to Haiku Stairs if it were opened and Chair Radke stated that the plan that was proposed would accept around 60 hikers a day at most.
9. Cultural Access: Kaluhiwa noted that the Hawaiian Civic Clubs have a cultural responsibility to oversee the caretaking of the area and noted that cultural access was consistently allowed in the past.
10. Opposition (continued): Rose voiced passionate opposition to opening Haiku Stairs. Rose noted that the community would continue to listen to finding a possible solution.
11. Support (continued): Dr. Ansdell stated that the Friends of Haiku Stairs could work.
12. EIS: Chair Radke reiterated the BWS EIS deadline of Tuesday, May 23, 2017. Cypher will follow up on if BWS will allow late testimony.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Submitted by: Relley Araceley, Public Relations Assistant
Reviewed by: Thomas Baldwin, Neighborhood Assistant
Reviewed by: Jon Hanks, Board Secretary
Approved and Finalized by: Mo Radke, Chair